

Obey ANNOUNCES advancement of \$1,000,000 for northwest wisCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Visual imagery technology to enhance first responder & community safety

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the U.S. House Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee approved \$1 million to help fund shared visual imagery technology for Rusk, Sawyer, Barron and Polk Counties. Obey is Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and worked to secure the funding.

“This technology can make a critical difference to first responders,” Obey said. “First responders risk their lives every day for their communities. We should ensure they have the tools they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.”

Currently, Rusk, Sawyer, Barron and Polk Counties have outdated imagery technology that only allows the user to only see the tops of buildings. In addition, the counties do not have a common software system to allow them to share imagery and data to enhance coordination. The new technology will allow first responders to, within seconds, view and analyze any house, building, or intersection. The technology allows emergency personnel to better respond to many situations, including -- searches, raids, accident reconstruction, crowd control and evacuation, land/air coordination in search and rescue efforts, and foot chases.

Obey noted that, “the bill must still be approved by the full House and Senate and signed by the President before it becomes law
, but having these funds included in today’s version means that a major hurdle has been

cleared.”

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